



The Commuter Connection

February 2003

Volume 8 Issue 1

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Engineers Week 2003 is February 16-23

"Zoom Into Engineering" is the theme for the 26th Engineers Week celebration at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology during National Engineers Week, February 16-23, 2003 at the SDSM&T Campus.

Faculty, students and staff have joined the practicing engineers of the Black Hills Chapter of South Dakota Engineering Society, scientists, and K-12 teachers to show that **"without engineers the world stops."** Most events are open to the public.

Various activities are scheduled during the week, such as the bridge building contest, kids block contest, and the Rube Goldberg® Machine Contest. The challenge for the machine contest is to "select an empty 12-ounce aluminum can, crush it, and put it in a recycling bin in 20 or more steps." Other presentations and award ceremonies will also take place throughout the week.

Scheduled events for each day of Engineers Week are online at <http://www.hpcnet.org/eweek2003>



REMINDER REMINDER

- ♦ Register for Fall 2003 anytime using WebAdvisor
- ♦ Summer schedule will be out around April 1st
- ♦ Summer '03 and Spring '04 early registration starts on April 6th
- ♦ Keep checking WebAdvisor for important dates
- ♦ Financial aid packets are available and online forms can be done for next year as soon as taxes are figured. You must be a degree seeking student to receive financial aid

Information for Special/Non-Traditional Students

Remember to check the availability of courses and register for classes early via WebAdvisor. See the schedule of dates on the left to help you. WebAdvisor may be accessed at <https://wa-sdsmt.state.sd.us/webadvisor/> or on the SDSM&T homepage under academics. Summer schedules will be available around April 1st and the 4 week and 8 week summer class sessions begin on May 12th. For more information, please contact the AES office at 394-2400.

CAAP EXAM DATES

The CAAP exam will take place on March 18th and 19th from 8 am to 12:15 pm and March 20th from 12:30 pm to 4:45 pm in the Surbeck Center ballroom.



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College Survival Myths and Realities

Myth: "I can do it myself."

Reality: Form study groups to survive.

Small groups generate more options while brainstorming. Small groups can better evaluate ideas. Group decisions enhance harmony. Form study groups after the first few classes of the semester. Keep the group number to a handful and make it diverse. A group of three to five people is ideal. Vary personality types and try to have a person or two in the group with a personality similar to that of the professor. Meet at a regular time and place to ensure that everyone will be ready to work and be focused. Be persistent and don't give up on the group even though differences may arise.

Myth: "I have plenty of time to finish the assignment."

Reality: Establish regular study habits from the start.

Find the time of day you learn best – AM or PM. Let your friends know that your study time is sacred. Find a place to study, ideally outside of your dorm room. Give yourself a five to ten minute break every hour of study. Just do it. Establish a regular time and place to study and keep going there at your best study time.

Myth: "I'll start studying when school starts."

Reality: Start training now, like an athlete.

Can you imagine an athlete who wanted to qualify for the Olympics but refused to train for three months before the Olympic trials? Set up regular study hours. Read – choose anything, but read something. As you read more, your interests will broaden and your mind will be kept active. Start keeping a daily calendar to help with time management. College projects and homework take more time than you think. Write constantly. It doesn't matter what you write. Just write. Keep a journal. If you don't write regularly, you lose the edge, the confidence, the fluency.

TECH LEARNING CENTER

Are you nervous about some of your classes this semester? Want some extra help to ensure success? There is help available to you, free of charge, at the **Tech Learning Center (TLC)**. TLC has peer tutors, students that have already taken and passed the classes giving you trouble. They offer their assistance in helping you improve your grades.

Located on the lower level of the Devereaux Library off of the PC Lab, TLC has VCR's, textbooks, and other resources to help you. There are tutors for all the basic classes including math, chemistry, physics, English, and computer science.

Also, a recent addition to TLC is the Assistive Technologies Lab. This lab is equipped with state-of-the-art computers, scanners and software to facilitate learning for students with ADA certified disabilities such as visual or auditory impairments, dyslexia, ambulatory impairments, etc. Students wishing to use the Assistive Technologies Lab must be ADA certified through the campus counselor and ADA coordinator, Jolie McCoy. For more information, call 394-2547 or 394-2400.

TLC HOURS SPRING 2003:

MONDAY-THURSDAY	8 AM TO 9 PM
FRIDAY	8 AM TO 4 PM
SATURDAY	12 PM TO 5 PM
SUNDAY	4 PM TO 9 PM

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ACADEMIC POLICIES YOU SHOULD KNOW

Mandatory Proficiency Tests

All students enrolled at SDSM&T must take and pass the College Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) and Technology Information exams. Those pursuing a baccalaureate degree must take the exam after completing and passing 48 credit hours at the 100 level or above. Students pursuing an associate degree must complete and pass 32 credit hours at the 100 level or above. Taking and passing these exams are required for graduation. Following is the test schedule for Spring 2003.

Day	Date	Time	Place
Tuesday	March 18	8:00 am to 12:15 pm	Surbeck Ballroom
Wednesday	March 19	8:00 am to 12:15 pm	Surbeck Ballroom
Thursday	March 20	12:30 pm to 4:45 pm	Surbeck Ballroom

Academic Probation Policy

If your cumulative grade point average (GPA) is less than the GPA standard (see the table below), you will be placed on academic probation. Students on academic probation who earn a semester GPA below the minimum or who do not raise the cumulative GPA to the level of the minimum progression standard within two additional academic terms will be suspended for two academic terms (including summer semester). This suspension is contingent upon student appeals process outcomes and administrative action by the university. All undergraduate students are required to obtain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 to qualify for graduation.

Class	Credit Hour Range	GPA Standard
Freshman	0-31.99	1.8
Sophomore	32-63.99	1.9
Junior	64-95.99	2.0
Senior	96-more	2.0

JOBS JOBS JOBS

Are you graduating soon and starting a job search? Just looking for some part-time work or needing summer employment? There are resources on the SDSM&T campus that will be helpful to you.

Any time is a good time to check out the services offered at the Career Planning Office in the Surbeck Center. Check out their web site at <http://www.hpcnet.org/sdsmt/careerplanning>. Use the new e-recruiting system to register on-line, post your resume, apply for campus interviews, and sign up for interviews. You will also find sample cover letters and resumes in the office and on the web site, as well as lists of other helpful resources for finding that perfect job after college or applying for graduate or professional school. Each spring and fall, the Career Planning Office schedules Career Fairs. Potential employers from many different areas attend and this is a great time to make contacts for full-time work after graduation, co-ops, and summer employment. If it is a local contact you are looking for, check the yellow pages under "engineers".

If you are looking for part-time work or summer employment, there are usually a number of jobs available both on and off campus. The Academic and Enrollment Services Office (OH 216) and Career Planning Office post job opportunities on bulletin boards outside their offices. Rapid City is great if you are just looking for summer work because of the opportunities available in the tourist trades. There are many employment agencies in Rapid City that will also help with part-time and temporary searches. Among them are One-Stop Career Center, Manpower, and Kelly Services. Check the yellow pages under "employment agencies". In addition, the Black Hills Regional Job Fair will be held at the Civic Center on Thursday, March 13th.

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Academic Services

Room 216, O'Harra Building
South Dakota School of Mines
and Technology

501 East St. Joseph Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-544-8162, ext. 2400

HAVE A GREAT SPRING BREAK!!

Spring Semester 2003

Engineers Week	Feb. 16-23
President's Day Holiday	Feb. 17
Spring Break	Mar. 3-9
Daylight Savings Time Begins	Apr. 6
FE Exam	Apr. 12
Good Friday	Apr. 18
Easter Monday	Apr. 21
Finals Week	May 5-9
Graduation	May 10
Summer Classes Begin	May 12
Memorial Day	May 26

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